



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Roger Berliner  
Montgomery County Council President  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Berliner: Bill 28-17 County Minimum Wage

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC please accept this letter of our opposition to Bill 28-17 County Minimum Wage.

The AAC continues to be concerned how this Bill 28-17 will result in Montgomery County being at a competitive disadvantage when compared to our neighboring jurisdictions.

The AAC supports an “exemption for small businesses” that should be included in the Bill and agricultural businesses should be included within the definition of small business. There is confusion on how the Federal and State agricultural worker’s exemptions are applied to the minimum wage. If a farmer employs more than 6.4 employees that work 6 days per week for a quarter of the year, then the minimum wage is required to be paid.

There are several farms in the County with agricultural workers (Butlers Orchard, Homestead Farm, Lewis Orchard and Rock Hill Orchard) where the County minimum wage is required to be paid to these workers. Workers that are running the cash registers at farm markets do not qualify for the agricultural exemption.

Increasing the County Minimum Wage will represent yet another cost of production that will negatively impact the profitability of agriculture and the farmers that are required to pay it.

Thank you again for the considering the views of the AAC on this Bill 28-17.

Sincerely,

Doug Lechliden, Vice Chairman of the AAC

Cc: Isiah Leggett, County Executive

